



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

PATENT

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box 1450; Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on the date set forth below.

2879
#7
Election
KG
7/11/03

Joni Bosch
(signature)

June 24, 2003
Date of signature and deposit

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
JERRY D. SCHERMERHORN ET AL.)	Group Art Unit 2879
)	
Serial No. 09/915,721)	
Confirmation No. 8200)	Examiner Sharlene L. Leurig
Filed: July 26, 2001)	
)	
For: FLAT PLASMA DISPLAY PANEL)	Attorney Docket 1-23271
WITH INDEPENDENT TRIGGER)	
AND CONTROLLED SUSTAINING)	
ELECTRODES)	

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

RECEIVED
JUN 27 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Honorable Sir:

This letter is submitted in response to the Office Action dated June 5, 2003, paper no. 6, concerning the above-identified patent application. In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the application includes the following distinct inventions:

- I. Claims 1 through 16, and 25, drawn to a plasma flat panel display, classified in class 313, subclass 484; and
- II. Claims 17 through 24 and 26 through 29, drawn to a method of operating a plasma flat panel display, classified in class 315, subclass 169.3.

The Examiner further stated that Inventions I and II are related as product and process of use. The Examiner also stated that the inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product.

The Examiner then concluded that the inventions were distinct because the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using the product. The Examiner stated as the basis for her conclusion that the claimed plasma display can be used in a process employing separate voltage drivers for each electrode, since the plasma display device does not necessarily have shared electrode pads between sustainer electrodes.

Applicant hereby elects, with traverse, Invention I, Claims 1 through 16, and 25, drawn to a plasma flat panel display, classified in class 313, subclass 484.

The set of claims as filed includes a total of 29 claims, of which 7 claims are independent. Independent Claims 1, 16 and 25 are directed toward a plasma flat display panel, while Independent Claims 17, 21, 28 and 29 are directed toward a method of operating a plasma flat display panel.

Independent apparatus claim 17 recites the following:

a single common first sustainer electrode pad electrically connected to said first sustainer electrode in said first sustainer electrode pair and said first sustainer electrode in said second sustainer electrode pair, said first sustainer electrode pad adapted to connected to a first sustainer voltage waveform supply whereby a single supply provides a first sustainer voltage waveform to both of said first sustainer electrodes;

Because independent claim 17 recites that a pair of sustainer electrodes are connected to a common electrode pad, applicants do not believe that a plasma panel having the structure recited in claim 17 can be used in a process employing separate voltage dividers for each electrode, as stated by the Examiner as the basis for determining that the inventions are distinct.

Additionally, applicants respectfully note that identical language appears in step (a) Independent Method Claims 17 and 28 in which a plasma flat panel display is provided. Since step (a) in Claims 17 and 28 specifically states that a pair of sustainer electrodes are connected to common electrode pad, applicants also believe that the process as claimed can not be practiced with another materially different product.

Applicants also respectfully note that Independent Apparatus Claim 1 does not recite electrodes connected to a common electrode pad. Similarly, Independent Method Claims 21 and 29 do not recite providing a panel having electrodes connected to a common electrode pad in step (a). Accordingly, applicants do not believe that the basis provided by the Examiner for stating that the inventions described in Claims 1, 21 and 29 are distinct is present in the claims.

Finally, Independent Apparatus Claim 25 recites in step (a) providing a panel that includes:

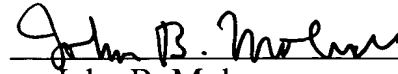
a single common first sustainer electrode pad electrically connected to one end of said first sustainer electrode in said first sustainer electrode pair and said other end of first sustainer electrode being connected to a corresponding end of said first sustainer electrode in said second sustainer electrode pair;

Applicants believe that the above language recites a structure that is similar to the structure recited in claim 1 in that two electrodes are connected to a common voltage supply; however, the method of connection differs. Accordingly, for the reasons given above, applicants believe that Claim 25 is not distinct from Method Claims 17 and 28.

In conclusion, for the reasons given above, applicants do not believe that the independent apparatus claims are distinct from the independent method claims. Accordingly applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw her restriction

requirement and examine all of the claims submitted with the Patent Application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John B. Molnar", is written over a horizontal line.

John B. Molnar

Reg. No. 31,914

MacMillan, Sobanski & Todd, LLC
One Maritime Plaza, Fourth Floor
720 Water Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
(419) 255-5900